

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01231 081801Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
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O P 081618Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2199
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1231

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC NATO NPG NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH VIEWS ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON (ERW):
PARLIAMENT OPPOSES PRODUCTION

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 1085 (DTF 011546Z MAR 78), (B) THE HAGUE 1173
(DTG 061348Z MAR 78) (,95-)), (C) THE HAGUE 614 (DTG
071027Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: TAKING DISTASTE FOR ERW DEPLOYMENT FOR GRANTED,
SECOND CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 8 ADOPTED MOTION DECLARING
PRODUCTION OF ERW UNDESIRABLE AND ASKING GON TO CONVEY THIS
POSITION TO US AND OTHER NATO MEMBERS. DURING DEBATE PRIME
MINISTER VAN AGT AGAIN MADE CLEAR GON WILL NOT COMMIT ITSELF
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01231 081801Z

TO DEPLOYMENT. WITH PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY SENTIMENT OPPOSING
ERW CONTINUING TO GAIN STRENGTH, GON WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION
TO SUPPORT US PROPOSALS IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY

2. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TRIGGERED BY MOD KRUISINGA'S
RESIGNATION (REF B) TURNED VIRTUALLY EXCLUSIVELY ON THE ERW
ISSUE, WHICH KRUISINGA GAVE AS THE OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR HIS

DEPARTURE. A SOCIALIST MOTION PRESENTED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL REJECTING PRODUCTION OF ERW WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED. PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER ADOPTED AN OPPOSITION D'66 MOTION, SUPPORTED BY A LARGE MAJORITY OF COALITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, TO THE EFFECT THAT PRODUCTION OF ERW WAS UNDESIRABLE AND URGING GON TO MAKE THIS STANDPOINT KNOWN TO US AND OTHER NATO PARTNERS. DCM WAS SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION, WITH EXPLANATION THAT COPIES WILL LATER BE PROVIDED IN BRUSSELS TO OTHER ALLIES.

3. MOTION WAS ADOPTED DESPITE ARGUMENT BY PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT THAT, WITH NATO CONSULTATIONS STILL UNDERWAY, GON SHOULD NOT TAKE DEFINITIVE POSITION NOW. UNDER SHARP QUESTIONING, VAN AGT CONFIRMED LINE TAKEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW IN THE SECOND CHAMBER ON MARCH 1 TO THE EFFECT THAT, IF SOVIETS REFUSE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, A NEW SITUATION WOULD ARISE IN WHICH GOVERNMENT WOULD ONCE AGAIN CONSULT SECOND CHAMBER. VAN AGT WENT ON TO MAKE CLEAR GON WOULD NOT ONLY NOT COMMIT ITSELF NOW TO DEPLOYMENT OF ERW IF SOVIETS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN ARMS CONTROL SWAP BUT WOULD ALSO RESIST SUGGESTIONS FOR A PRIOR COMMITMENT TO DEPLOY ERW.

4. WITH FORTHCOMING ANTI-ERW MANIFESTATION MARCH 18-19 DRAWING NEAR, PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURES AGAINST THE WEAPON CONTINUE TO BUILD UP. UNLIKE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IN WHICH BOTH ANTI-ERW MOTIONS FAILED AS A RESULT
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PAGE 03 THE HA 01231 081801Z

OF A SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED TURN OF PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS (REF A), THIS TIME MAJORITY SENTIMENT OF THE CHAMBER COALESCED EASILY AGAINST ERW. THE CHAMBER, MOREOVER, DID NOT CONFINE ITSELF TO EXPRESSING STRONG FEELINGS AGAINST DEPLOYMENT BUT WENT RIGHT ON IN EFFECT TO GIVE GRATUITOUS ADVISE TO THE US ON PRODUCTION.

5. COMMENT: IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT GON WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT US ERW PROPOSALS IN BRUSSELS (STATE 56166), AND IT IS DOUBTFUL, EVEN IF ALL OTHER CONCERNED ALLIES WERE TO AGREE, THAT DUTCH GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID STANDING IN THE WAY. THIS PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AS WELL AS THE LAST WERE CHARACTERIZED BY TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY EFFORT, EVEN BY COALITION LIBERALS, TO FRAME THE DISCUSSION IN TERMS OF EAST-WEST POLITICAL AND MILITARY BALANCE. PARLIAMENT INSTEAD SEEMS TO HAVE PUT ON BLINDERS, CONSIDERING ERW ALMOST IN A VACUUM AND GIVING THOSE OPPOSING ERW ON MORAL OR ARMS CONTROL GROUNDS A FIELD DAY.

6. TEXT OF RESOLUTION BEING SENT SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, POLICIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA01231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0904
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780390/aaaacyqj.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62e70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: DUTCH VIEWS ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON (ERW): PARLIAMENT OPPOSES PRODUCTION
TAGS: MNUC, NL, NATO, NPG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62e70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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